

RCWD/City of Temecula Non-Functional Turf Removal and Irrigation Upgrade Project

Disadvantaged Community Benefits

Attachment 7 consists of the following item:

- ✓ **Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Benefits.** Describes the location of the DACs within the Benefit Area and the benefits gained.

The District and the City encompass many diverse communities. Many of those communities include a substantial area within the District's service area and the City of Temecula that meet the definition of Disadvantage Communities (DACs) when defined as those communities with an annual median household income of less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI (Public Resources Code (PRC) §75005(g) and California Water Code (CWC) §79505.5(a)). However, when compared to the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) tool, CalEnviroScreen 2.0, which considers factors presented in the Health and Safety Code to define DACs and assign percentage scores to census tracts, scores exceeding 76 percent are only considered a DAC Program Preference under the DWR Water-Energy Grant solicitation. The only DAC area that is included in the CalEnviroScreen 2.0 within the Project Benefit Area (the District's service area) falls within the 71-75 percent score (Census Tract 6065051200).

Figure 7-1 shows the DACs, both the PRC/CWC and Cal/EPA defined DACs, within the District's service area and City boundaries. While none of the specific Project site locations are exclusively within an accepted DAC area under this grant solicitation, the Project goals and benefits, as discussed in Attachment 2, will be realized across the entire District service area, including the DAC areas shown. The water savings, energy savings and GHG-emission reduction benefits result in reduced dependence on imported water, improved water supply reliability, improved water quality, and improved air quality for all District customers, reduced energy consumption economic benefits across the District service area stabilizing water rates, and demonstration and education of the Project's water conservation and water use efficiency measures communicated to all community members. Therefore, the DACs will realize nearly 100% of the claimed benefits.

While the proposal cannot claim a DAC Program Preference under the grant guidelines requirements, the proposed Project clearly benefits DACs across the benefit area. Therefore, we would encourage DWR to consider this when evaluating proposals and recommending award of funding.

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